



12-28-11

m \$ C-C

PTO/SB/66 (03-09)
Approved for use through 03/31/2012. OMB 0651-0016
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF
MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378 (c))**

Docket Number (Optional)

Mail to: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Fax: (571) 273-8300

01/05/2012 DALLEN 00000000 5916153

01 FC:1599

4005.00 OP

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

Patent No. 5916153

Application Number 08958509

Issue Date 06/29/1999

Filing Date 10/27/1997

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number (or reissue patent number, if a reissue) and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application (or reissue application) leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

Also complete the following information, if applicable

The above - identified patent

☐

Is a reissue of original Patent No. _____ original issue date _____

original application number _____

original filing date _____

☐

resulted from the entry into the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application _____

filed on _____

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.89(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (*along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class main in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

12/23/2011
Date

W.E. Rhea Jr. M.D.
Signature

W.E. Rhea Jr., M.D.

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

01/24/2012 GORTOS 00000000 5916153

[page 1 of 3]

01 FC:2553

2365.00 OP

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.89(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

2012 JAN -3 AM 8:57
USPTO RECEIVED
DIVISION

01/24/2012 DALLEN 00000000 5916153
01 FC:1599
4005.00 OP

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

7. OVERPAYMENT

As to any overpayment made please

- OR ☐ Credit to Deposit Account No. _____
- ☒ Send refund check

WARNING:

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

8. STATEMENT

The delay in payment of the maintenance fee to this patent was unintentional.

9. PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED

W.E. Rhea, Jr., M.D.
Signature(s) of Petitioner(s)
W.E. Rhea, Jr., M.D.
Typed or printed name(s)
Home 828-733-3382
Cell - 337-258-2750
Telephone Number

12/23/2011
Date
N/A
Registration Number, if applicable

3329 Land Harbor

Address

Newland, NC 28657

Address

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

ENCLOSURES

- ☒ Maintenance Fee Payment
- ☒ Surcharge under 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (fee for filing the maintenance fee petition)
- ☒ Form PTO-2038

Letter Explaining Delay, Request for Forgiveness of late fee
and outline of fees submitted.

WJR